

# URGENT

## BUDGET CRISIS UPDATE from Senator Basham



*from the desk of  
State Senator Raymond E. Basham*

Dear Friend:

Michigan is in crisis. Due to a combination of a manufacturing industry devastated by unfair trade policies and the exploding cost of health care, the state is facing a \$3 billion budget shortfall. Short-sighted fiscal plans by previous legislatures have only deepened the problem, and now Michigan families are in serious danger.

Governor Granholm and I have made more tough cuts than any of our predecessors. We have eliminated nearly \$3 billion in spending over the last three years, and there are almost 10,000 less state employees than there were just six years ago. We will continue to make tough choices, but we are also committed to investing in Michigan's long-term success.

As legislators, we understand that resolving these budget issues in a way that protects our most urgent priorities, is critical to our long-range plans to grow and transform our economy. But we need you to be part of the solution as well.

Below is a survey form where you can express your opinions. Your ideas are an important part of determining what Michigan we will leave for our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,

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*Please complete the following survey, cut on the dotted line, and mail to:*

**State Senator Raymond E. Basham, PO Box 30036, Lansing MI 48909-7536**

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**Please rank each of these budget options one through six, with one being what you would most prefer and six being what you would least prefer:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Cuts to public schools and higher education, which could result in fewer teachers or higher college tuition
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cuts to Corrections programs, which could lead to the closing of up to 16 prison facilities and the release of nearly 14,000 prisoners
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cuts to local government, which could result in fewer police officers and firefighters, or services like road repair
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cuts to health care, which could result in forcing people off of Medicaid and higher costs to taxpayer from the uninsured being treated in emergency rooms
- \_\_\_\_\_ Increasing revenue from individuals to avoid cuts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Increasing revenue from businesses to avoid cuts

**Additional Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_